



Testimony Provided to the

House Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications Committee

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House Bill 2702

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2702. The Wind Coalition respectfully takes a neutral, but positive, position on this measure.

The Wind Coalition represents nearly forty wind developers, manufacturers and corporate wind energy purchasers which operate, have assets or purchase projects across the United States and specifically within the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) region. Of the thirty-five operating wind projects in Kansas, all but one is operated by a Wind Coalition member company.

The underlying bill which HB 2702 adds to was, SB 227. SB 227 was enacted in during the 2011 Legislative session. The Wind Coalition was instrumental in crafting and helping pass the bill which requires: (1) painting the MET tower in alternating orange and white bands towers, (2) two marker balls on the outside guide wires and (3) 7' anchor safety sleeves are on the anchor points of the MET tower. While compliance with the painting and marking provisions of the bill was anticipated to cost a wind developer approximately \$10,000 per tower, the majority of Wind Coalition members had complied with the provisions of SB 227 and were pleased to help craft an important piece of safety-focused legislation. Kansas was one of the first states to enact MET tower marking legislation. Currently approximately ten states have followed suit.

The American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) had the opportunity to submit comments in a Federal Aviation Administration docket (FAA 2010- 1326) relating to Marking Meteorological Evaluation Towers. In AWEA's comments, they noted their general support of the National Agriculture Aviation Association (NAAA) to improve the visibility of met towers in appropriate circumstances. AWEA and its regional partners, including The Wind Coalition, work closely with our federal and state regulators as well as our local partners to ensure the safety of all who come in contact with our assets.

HB 2702 as currently written is an extension of key safety recommendations encouraged by our federal regulators and at least four other states have passed legislation requiring development of a state locational MET tower database of those MET towers currently in use. Those states include Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota and Wyoming.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide neutral testimony on HB 2702.